

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 08553 291745Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6445

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

USUN NEW YORK 1271

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: MAKARIOS IN ATHENS

1. ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS RETURNED TO GREECE EARLY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 29, RECEIVED A HEAD OF STATE WELCOME AT THE ATHENS AIRPORT, AND WAS WHISKED TO DOWNTOWN ATHENS UNDER HEAVY SECURITY WHERE HE ADDRESSED A LARGE CROWD FOR HALF HOUR FROM THIRD FLOOR BALCONY OF GRANDE BRETAGNE HOTEL IN CONSTITUTION SQUARE. IN HIS SPEECH THE ARCHBISHOP STRONGLY CONDEMNED GREEK JUNTA FOR HAVING BROUGHT ABOUT CHAOS ON THE ISLAND AND ASSERTED HIS LEGITIMATE RIGHT AS ELECTED HEAD OF STATE TO RETURN. HE SAID IN GOING TO CYPRUS, "I OFFER THE TURKS AN OLIVE BRANCH, BUT I REFUSE TO OFFER EARTH AND WATER," I.E. COMPLETE SUBMISSION TO FOREIGN OCCUPIERS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 08553 291745Z

LAND. HE SAID A WAY WOULD BE FOUND TO PROTECT THE RIGHT

OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OF THE MINORITY WHICH WOULD NOT DO INJUSTICE TO THE MAJORITY. TEXT OF SPEECH NOT YET RELEASED AND NO PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED.

2. ATHENIANS IN LARGE NUMBERS WELCOMED ARCHBISHOP ON ROUTE INTO CITY. CONSTITUTION SQUARE GATHERING WAS SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN AT RALLIES FOR MAJOR PARTIES TWO WEEKS AGO IN SAME AREA. CROWD WAS INTERESTED BUT NOT AS ENTHUSIASTIC OR DEMONSTRATIVE AS AT OTHER MASS RALLIES HERE IN RECENT WEEKS. STUDENTS AND YOUNG WORKERS, WITH PREPONDERANCE OF LEFTIST IDENTIFICATION, TRIED TO WORK UP CROWD SPIRIT WITH USUAL SLOGANS BUT GENUINE FIRE WAS MISSING. ANTI-MONARCHIST BANNERS, SLOGANS, AND LITERATURE WERE VERY PROMINENT. FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR PRIESTS IN LARGE NUMBERS WERE PRESENT. WHEN MAKARIOS THANKED CARAMANLIS AND GREEK GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORT, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WHO WERE BUNCHED NEAREST HOTEL CLAPPED RESPONSIVELY. DOWNTOWN SECURITY QUITE TIGHT.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF MAKARIOS'S SPEECH, CROWD GENERALLY MOVED IN DIRECTION OMONIA SQUARE (CITY'S OTHER LARGE POPULAR CENTER). HOWEVER, TAIL END CONTINGENT (COMPRISING BETWEEN 1000-2000 PERSONS) REMAINED WITHIN ONE BLOCK CONSTITUTION SQUARE AREA AND BEGAN ENGAGING IN PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST POLICE. INCIDENTS OF PUSHING, SHOVING, PUNCHINGS AND HURLING OF OBJECTS AT POLICE ENSUED. EPITHETS SUCH AS "FASCISTS, MURDERERS" DIRECTED AGAINST POLICE, AS WELL AS NUMBER OF PARTICULARLY LEFTIST-ORIENTED SLOGANS, E.G. EAN/ELAS/ POLYTECHNIK. AS NEW CONTINGENTS CAME TO BUTTRESS POLICE RANKS, THEY WERE GREETED WITH CAT CALLS OF DERISION, E.G. "HERE COME THE EXECUTIONERS."

4. ABOUT 1600 HOURS LOCAL TIME CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS BEGAN THINNING OUT AND BY 1645 HARD CORE GROUP OF SOME 200-300 REMAINED. THIS GROUP CONTINUED ITS TAUNTS OF POLICE INCLUDING DISPLAY OF CONTEMPTUOUS PALM AND FIVE FINGERS GESTURE AND SUCH SLOGANS AS "YOU MURDERED OUR BROTHERS." BY THIS TIME POLICE HAD CORRALLED HARD CORE ONTO SIDEWALK AND TRAFFIC ONCE MORE RESUMED ON HEAVILY TRAVESED PANAPISTEMIOU STREET. AT PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 08553 291745Z

TIME, 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME, NUMBER OF POLICE ROUGHLY EQUAL IN NUMBER THE DEMONSTRATORS. SLOGANS AND BANNERS OF THIS HARD CORE GROUP HAVE STRONG LEFTIST TONE WITH HAMMER AND SICKLE PORTRAYED FREQUENTLY.

5. ONE INTERESTING OCCURRENCE NOTED BY EMBASSY PAO: EARLIER DURING MAKARIOS' APPEARANCE ON BALCONY, GROUP (PROBABLY CYPRIOT STUDENTS) COMMENCED CHANT "EXO

AMERIKANI" (OUT WITH THE AMERICANS). MAKARIOS FROWNED
VISIBLY, LEFT BALCONY AND RETIRED INSIDE BUILDING FOR
SHORT PERIOD PERIOD AND THEN RETURNED. THAT PARTICULAR GROUP
WHICH APPARENTLY PROVOKED HIS DEPARTURE DID NOT RENEW
ITS PREVIOUS SLOGANEERING.
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